

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] may be used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (Original), (Previously Presented), (Cancelled), (Withdrawn), (New), (Currently Amended), or (Not Entered).

Please AMEND the claims as noted below. In particular, please CANCEL claims **1-4, 7-13, 19-20** and **31-47**. Applicants note that claims **5-6** and **27-28** had already been cancelled. The only claims now remaining are those already indicated as “Allowable Subject Matter” at page 9 of the Final Office Action.

### **Listing of the Claims**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus including:
  - a first component defining a first passage;
  - a second component connectable with the first component and defining a second passage, said passages being aligned when the components are connected to each other;
  - a rotatable locking pin having formations and a retaining element having engaging formations complementary to said formations and each configured for being accommodated in the aligned passages, the rotatable locking pin being rotatable relative to the components when accommodated in the aligned passages between

a locked position in which the formations of the locking pin engage at least one of the engaging formations of the retaining element so as to prevent withdrawal of the locking pin from the aligned passages and to prevent separation of the components, and

a free position in which the pin is slidably removable from the aligned passages to permit separation of the components,

wherein said formations of the pin are at least partly disposed along a circumference of the pin,

wherein the pin is configured so that said formations interlock with the engaging formations of the retaining element as the pin is rotated from the free position to the locked position to prevent separation of the first and second components;

wherein the pin has therein an insertion recess extending, longitudinally relative to the pin to accommodate the retaining element and to permit insertion of the pin into the aligned passages when the insertion recess is aligned with the retaining element;

wherein the insertion recess does not extend along an entire longitudinal length of the pin, and

wherein the pin further comprises a withdrawal recess and said withdrawal recess is displaced longitudinally on a circumference of the pin and apart from the insertion recess, which withdrawal recess permits withdrawal of the pin from the aligned passages, when the withdrawal recess is aligned with the retaining element.

**15. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the pin when inserted into the aligned passages with the insertion recess aligned with the retaining element, the pin is in the free position and is rotatable to the locked position in a particular rotational direction, and once having being rotated to the locked position, is rotatable in the particular rotational direction to a further position in which the withdrawal recess is aligned with the retaining element.

**16. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus including:

a first component defining a first passage;

a second component connectable with the first component and defining a second passage, said passages being aligned when the components are connected to each other;

a rotatable locking pin having formations and a retaining element having engaging formations complementary to said formations and each configured for being accommodated in the aligned passages, the rotatable locking pin being rotatable relative to the components when accommodated in the aligned passages between

a locked position in which the formations of the locking pin engage at least one of the engaging formations of the retaining element so as to prevent withdrawal of the locking pin from the aligned passages and to prevent separation of the components, and

a free position in which the pin is slidably removable from the aligned passages to permit separation of the components,

wherein said formations of the pin are at least partly disposed along a circumference of the pin,

wherein the pin is configured so that said formations interlock with the engaging formations of the retaining element as the pin is rotated from the free position to the locked position to prevent separation of the first and second components, and

wherein one of the passages of one of the components is closed at one end such that the aligned passages are closed at one end.

17. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the component having a passage closed at one end includes a resilient element in that passage immediately adjacent the one closed end, wherein the pin, when accommodated in said aligned passages, is configured to abut against the resilient element.

18. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus including:

a first component defining a first passage;

a second component connectable with the first component and defining a second passage, said passages being aligned when the components are connected to each other;

a rotatable locking pin having formations and a retaining element having engaging formations complementary to said formations and each configured for being accommodated in the aligned passages, the rotatable locking pin being rotatable relative to the components when accommodated in the aligned passages between

a locked position in which the formations of the locking pin engage at least one of the engaging formations of the retaining element so as to prevent withdrawal of the locking pin from the aligned passages and to prevent separation of the components, and

a free position in which the pin is slidably removable from the aligned passages to permit separation of the components,

wherein said formations of the pin are at least partly disposed along a circumference of the pin, and

wherein the pin is configured so that said formations interlock with the engaging formations of the retaining element as the pin is rotated from the free position to the locked position to prevent separation of the first and second components, and

wherein the passage of one of said components includes two coaxial spaced-apart sub-passages, and the passage of the other component is disposed between, and aligned with, said sub-passages when the components are connected to each other, to form said aligned passages.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus including:

a first component defining a first passage;

a second component connectable with the first component and defining a second passage, said passages being aligned when the components are connected to each other;

a rotatable locking pin having formations and a retaining element having engaging formations complementary to said formations and each configured for being accommodated in the aligned passages, the rotatable locking pin being rotatable relative to the components when accommodated in the aligned passages between

a locked position in which the formations of the locking pin engage at least one of the engaging formations of the retaining element so as to prevent withdrawal of the locking pin from the aligned passages and to prevent separation of the components, and

a free position in which the pin is slidably removable from the aligned passages to permit separation of the components,

wherein said formations of the pin are at least partly disposed along a circumference of the pin,

wherein the pin is configured so that said formations interlock with the engaging formations of the retaining element as the pin is rotated from the free position to the locked position to prevent separation of the first and second components,

wherein at least part of said retaining element is resiliently movable under a force exerted by the pin when the pin is rotated from said free position to said locked position,

wherein said part of the retaining element is resilient and allows said resilient movement, while urging said part against the pin,

wherein said resilient element includes an elastomeric support and an engagement element, and

wherein the engagement element of the retaining element abuts the elastomeric support.

**22. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the support defines a channel in which the engagement element is received.

**23. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the support and engagement element are bonded to each other.

**24. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the support defines a deformation passage extending substantially parallel to said support, to facilitate resilient deformation of the support.

**25. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the engagement element is castellated so as to define a plurality of said engaging formations, each of which engages said pin when the pin is in the locked position.

**26. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said retaining element has a hole having a closed end and an opposite open end, said engaging formation being located within said

hole, the engaging formation or engagement element being movable along said hole and abutted against said resilient element, and protruding through said open end.

**27. (Cancelled)**

**28. (Cancelled)**

**29. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the resilient element is constituted by an elastomeric material.

**30. (Previously Presented)** Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the retaining element includes a plurality of said holes and a plurality of said engaging formations.

**31. (Cancelled)**

**32. (Cancelled)**

**33. (Cancelled)**

**34. (Cancelled)**

**35. (Cancelled)**

**36. (Cancelled)**

**37. (Cancelled)**

**38. (Cancelled)**

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**41. (Cancelled)**

**42. (Cancelled)**

**43. (Cancelled)**

**44. (Cancelled)**

**45. (Cancelled)**

**46. (Cancelled)**

**47. (Cancelled)**

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